COTTAGE COUNTRY BUILDING SUPPLIES
castle building centres
15452 Highway #35. | Carnarvon | Ontario
705-489-2212 | Cottagecountrybuildingsupplies.com

KELLY MERCER
BROKER
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
CELL: 705.458.7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca
www.kelly-mercer.ca

MEDICAL SUPPLIES
Need help and comfort?
Free local delivery on in stock chairs
14523 HWY #118 WEST, HALIBURTON
705-457-9355
www.highlandsmedicalsupplies.com

The Highlander

Thursday March 12 2026 | Issue 730

INSIDE: MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMING TO HALIBURTON PAGE 7 FREE

Shutting the door

Huskies netminder Owen Edwards has endured a Newmarket Hurricanes onslaught in the first round of playoffs, with the Huskies down 3-0. Game four is in Minden March 12. *Photo courtesy of Tim Bates/ OJHL Images*

Ramping things up in an election year

By Lisa Gervais

Former four-term Dysart et al councillor, Andrea Roberts, says being a local politician was life-changing for her.

"It really was a great time in my life. I look back on it with pride and no regrets," Roberts told *The Highlander* in an interview.

She is one of four speakers as the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project renews its 'voice and votes speaker series' March 25.

Titled 'behind the scenes of municipal leadership,' the evening will also feature former local councillors, Carol Moffatt, and Pat Kennedy, and current councillor in Grey Highlands, Dane Nielsen. It runs 7-9 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre.

The project's Lauren Hunter said now that it's officially an election year, "we're continuing with the 'voices and votes speaker series' to give folks more information, and continue encouraging people to think about running for office, about supporting someone who is running for office, or just to get out and vote."

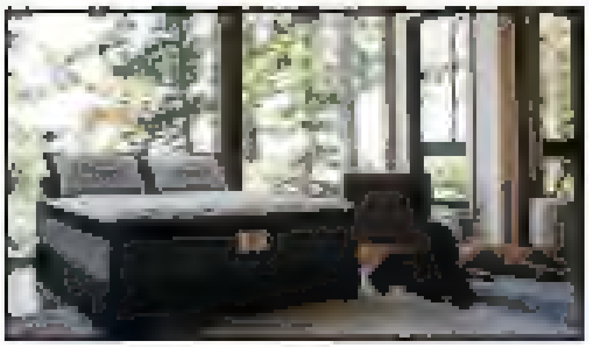
The HHHDP is a homegrown initiative led by Sean Pennylegion, Jessica Slade, Hunter, Barrie Martin and Moffatt. It's being run in partnership with the Haliburton County Community Cooperative and supported by the Haliburton County Development Corporation and Telling Our Stories Speaker Series, which has contributed

Continued '**Livestream**' on page 2

NAPOLEON
OPEN: MON-FRI 7:30 A.M. - 5 P.M., SAT 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. • FREE DELIVERY
HALIBURTON TIMBER MART
5148 Cty Rd 21
705-457-2510
haliburtonlumber.com
sales@haliburtonlumber.com

Highlander news

RIVERVIEW
FURNITURE & FLOORING



NOW OPEN!
1000 sq/ft Clearance Center
Visit Our Second Floor Showroom
Up to 70% off Dining, Bedroom & Living Room
Discontinued Models, Shop Worn & Overstock
705-286-3167 • 94 Bobcaygeon Rd
DOWNTOWN MINDEN
info@riverview-furniture.com
www.riverview-furniture.com

Livestream available online

Continued from page 1

$5,000 in program development.

The first session was held Sept. 16. Slade, who works as a civics consultant, talked people through how they can contribute to community development by working alongside local government.

The second talk, Oct. 7, featured former MPs Barry Devolin (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock) and Maryam Monsef (Peterborough-Kawartha) on why people should get involved by running for office, supporting a political campaign, or being an informed community member.

The upcoming talk is for people who have been curious about what it's like to actually do the job.

Hunter said the former, and current, councillor will address topics such as "how they made it all work, how they navigated things at the council table, what their lives looked like while they were sitting at the table, and just that practical real-life perspective of what it's like to be in office."

Asked about prospective candidates being uncomfortable attending, fearing people will tag them as candidates before they nominate, she pointed out the series is recorded and on the project's website so people can watch from the privacy of their homes.

Hunter said she thinks there is more interest leading up to the Oct. 26 poll. She noted the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has been actively promoting the need for candidates and voters.

At the first session, they shared sobering statistics about low voter turnout, and acclamations, and Hunter said, "we need to make more of a push to communicate to folks how important it is that we have a healthy, thriving municipal government. It is the level of government most accessible to people to be a part of, and impacts our daily lives the most."

Rewarding experience

Roberts said the good outweighed the negative for her. "There's far more positive memories and positive reflection."

She said she was a prepared councillor, read agendas, asked staff questions prior to meetings to make sure she had clarification, took the role seriously, and put her heart into it.

She is proud that she was on councils that brought a library, skate park, welcome centre, and a Head Lake Park master plan.

Asked about challenges, she said "you are putting your name out there, so any time you do that, you are open to criticism. The challenge is being able to handle criticism and not take it personally."

She cautioned for those in private enterprise, they might find the wheels of municipal government turn much slower.

Roberts encouraged people to attend the session, saying

Andrea Roberts will join two former, and a current, councillor, for the March 25 'voice and votes speaker series'. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*

"the purpose is to get involved… you don't necessarily have to run for council. There are committees of council as well. We need people to pay attention to what's happening because you can make a difference in your community. Take an interest in where you live and the government that makes decisions on an everyday basis for where you are.

"And if you do want to take that leap, and actually run for a position, it can be a very rewarding experience."

The next offering is 'understanding campaigns: how success happens' featuring Hunter, who is a seasoned campaign strategist of more than 20 municipal, provincial, and federal campaigns. She'll share the building blocks of a successful campaign, whether that's for elected office or for a cause people care about, along with practical tips and tools. It will take place April 21, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Stanhope Fire Fighters Community Hall in Algonquin Highlands.

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST
A PODCAST ABOUT ALL THINGS LOCAL
AVAILABLE AT THEHIGHLANDER.CA
AND ANYWHERE YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS
THIS WEEK:
Throwing the School Bus Under the School Bus

Another departure at health services

By Mike Baker

The winds of change are blowing through Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) once again, with the organization last week announcing the departure of interim president and CEO Jennifer Burns West.

She joined the organization in 2023, serving as chief nursing executive and vice president of clinical and community support services. Burns West then took the hospital's top job on a temporary basis last September, when Veronica Nelson left to join Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay.

HHHS board chair Irene Odell confirmed Burns West is due to step down as interim president and CEO on March 30, when new leader, Jack Hutchison, starts with the organization. She will assist with that transition for 10 days before leaving – following Nelson to the Ross. Her last day is April 10.

"On behalf of the board of directors, we thank Jennifer for her strong and steady leadership during this important time," Odell said. "Her dedication to our team and community has been deeply valued."

Described by Odell last summer as a "trusted and visionary leader who brings tremendous experience, energy and compassion to everything" she does, Burns West has overseen several key initiatives during her six-month stint as interim president and CEO. She helped launch an updated website, managed the addition of a new X-ray system and diagnostic imaging wing and spearheaded new staff recognition awards.

She also played a key role in the transition of the hospital's Ontario Telemedicine Network, Diabetes Education Network and Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) to Epic – the regional electronic medical record used in health facilities across Ontario.

Odell confirmed Victoria Miscio will continue as interim chief nursing executive for the foreseeable future.

Burns West's departure is the third to HHHS' senior management team this fiscal year – after Nelson and chief financial officer (CFO), Ulvi Ishagi-Bayat, who left in January.

Odell said she isn't overly concerned about the level of change seen at HHHS in recent months.

"Leadership transitions are a natural part of any organization's evolution, and we are fortunate to have strong teams in place to continue to advance priorities and plans that have been developed by the leaders during their time with HHHS," Odell said. "We see this period as an opportunity to welcome new perspectives while continuing to build on that strong foundation."

After seeing two senior personnel depart for Lindsay and one come the other way – Brian Winder, HHHS' interim CFO, was director of finance at Ross for 12 years before retiring in 2022 – Odell said there may be opportunities for the two hospitals to work closer in future, though ruled out any official merger.

"Hospitals across Ontario are increasingly working together in new ways to strengthen care and make the best use of shared expertise. HHHS has many positive collaborative agreements in place with Ross Memorial and other organizations," Odell said. "We remain open to all opportunities that support high-quality, sustainable care for the region and believe that collaboration, not amalgamation, will bring the highest benefit for our patients and communities."

Burns West will serve as chief nursing executive at Ross. She thanked HHHS and the Haliburton community for embracing her over the past two years.

"It has been a true privilege to lead HHHS. I am incredibly proud of this organization and grateful to our staff, physicians, volunteers and community," Burns West said.

No update on LTC

Chief communications officer Lauren Ernst was asked about HHHS' application to expand long-term care at the Minden Health Hub, with the organization seeking approval to add 98 beds at Hyland Crest.

The $49 million proposal, which could see all beds at Haliburton's Highland Crest diverted to Minden within the next five years, was submitted to the province last spring. If approved, the Minden site would grow from 62 beds to 160.

Jennifer Burns West is leaving HHHS effective April 11. *File*

"We have not yet received any updates regarding our long-term care master planning application. Timelines for review are determined externally, and we understand the process can take some time," Ernst said. "As soon as we receive any new information or have a meaningful update to share, we will be sure to communicate it with our community promptly."

Questions posed to MPP Laurie Scott and the Ministry of Long-Term Care were not answered by press time.

Hike Haliburton Festival scoops prestigious provincial prizes

By Mike Baker

The County of Haliburton cleaned up at the recent Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) awards gala, scoring two top honours for its work running the popular Hike Haliburton festival.

The fall edition of the free event has been running for more than 20 years, with the winter edition launching in 2020. Organized by the County's tourism department, each version features guided walks of popular trails and tourist destinations across the Highlands. The multi-day events attract visitors from across Ontario, helping to boost the County economy.

"Since its inception, Hike Haliburton is a festival that continues to expand and evolve," said County warden Dave Burton.

At the awards ceremony, held in Kitchener Feb. 25, the event was announced as the winner of the FEO Impact Award, given to a festival with an operating budget of $100,000 or less.

The nomination committee said Hike Haliburton stood above its competition due to the expanded programming offered in the 2025 fall edition, which included two new Indigenous-led events. The impact award recognizes festivals that embody the best ideas to advance cultural diversity and inclusion and being a leader in promoting truth and reconciliation in the Aboriginal community.

Last year, the festival received a $25,000 federal grant that went towards launching a new medicine walk and storytelling session by Indigenous knowledge holder Jared Big Canoe.

"These experiences quickly became some of the most in-demand offerings of the festival, consistently praised for their insight, authenticity and deep connection to the land," the award nomination application read. "Participants expressed that these guided experiences gave them a richer understanding of local history, traditional ecological knowledge and cultural teachings."

The County's manager of tourism, Angelica Ingram, said they're planning to integrate Indigenous programming into future editions of the festival.

Hike Haliburton was also recognized as one of the top 100 festivals in Ontario, standing alongside "events of all kinds from every corner of Ontario… from community festivals to internationally recognized events."

PEACE OF MIND BEGINS WITH A CONVERSATION.

Let's talk about your financial future.

The Le Roy Financial Group
ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management.

Building a lasting financial legacy begins with an understanding of your goals and vision for the future, and it starts with a conversation. Contact us today for a complimentary conversation about your current financial plan to ensure you're on track now and for years to come.

CONTACT US
705.455.7084
christopher.leroy@scotiawealth.com
theleroyfinancialgroup.com/secondopinion

Our plan to protect Ontario is building new pipelines

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty, we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario. We're building to bring opportunity, good jobs and growth home to our province.

That's how we protect Ontario.

PROTECT ONTARIO

ontario.ca/ProtectOntario

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario

WWW.THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Mike Thomas, left, was named chair of the Watersheds Canada board. Pictured with Robert Pye and Melissa Dessein. Submitted

Having local president of Watersheds Canada 'a big win'

By Mike Baker

Three months after being elected board chair of Watersheds Canada, Mike Thomas says he has big plans to expand the conservation agency's reach in the Highlands and across the nation.

The Highlands East resident stepped into the role in December after five years of serving on the board. He stepped down as president of the Paudash Lake Association last fall, giving him the capacity needed to take on a larger role with the national charity.

Founded in 2002 as the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds – and rebranding in 2013 – Watersheds Canada focuses on protecting and restoring freshwater environments across the country, specializing in shoreline restoration and stewardship programs.

Thomas said the group has had a big presence in the County since 2014, when it partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association (CHA) on the 'Love Your Lake' program. Since its inception, detailed land surveys have been conducted on 50 local lakes, offering property owners personalized reports and recommendations on how to maintain natural shorelines and protect against pollution and erosion.

"Through 'Love Your Lake' we've evaluated over 1,000 kilometres of shoreline… the goal was to renaturalize 75 per cent to promote healthy waters and clean lakes," Thomas said. "I think it's been a major success story."

Watersheds Canada's executive director, Robert Pye, said, through the program, partners have assessed more than 30,000 individual properties on over 300 lakes nationwide, including in Ontario, Alberta and on the east coast.

Last year, the charity brought its inaugural national conference to Haliburton's Pinestone Resort. Thomas said it was an overwhelming success, with more than 100 prominent scientists, environmentalists and water enthusiasts participating in hands-on workshops in the community.

Having a County resident in such a prominent position "is a big win for the community," Thomas added. With experience running a lake association to go along with his many years volunteering with fish hatcheries in Haliburton and Bancroft – where he's helped restock lake and brook trout locally – Thomas feels he brings a unique approach to the role.

"Organizations tend to work within their own tunnels, but I can draw from work with many organizations that help me to see the different things one does that could really benefit another. Rather than reinventing the wheel, I can bring people and groups together to benefit our wider community," Thomas said.

He has three primary goals he hopes to achieve during his tenure: finding a sustainable way to fund Watersheds Canada's operations, continue expanding into other areas of the country, and bolster its pool of learning resources.

"We have a budget of well over $1 million, but no real steady stream of income. We rely totally on individual and corporate donations and grants," Thomas said. "We also want to be in all provinces and territories – right now we work in eight provinces… and we're also trying to put ourselves in a position where we are a strong resource of information.

"We have a new library we've developed that will be rolled out shortly … where people can go and get scientific, quantified and credible information on a range of subjects that we know other conservation associations are dealing with," he added.

"It will offer suggestions for planting native plants and trees on a shoreline, the exact types that are most fitting and where people can source them from."

On its restoration efforts, Thomas said the group is focusing on its 'Natural Edge' program that focuses on rehabilitating shorelines and working on restoring old spawning beds for walleye and lake trout.

Asked how County residents can help Watersheds Canada, Thomas encouraged people to reach out if they have ideas for environmentally-based projects.

"We have ample capability to work with people at the grassroots level, particularly in Haliburton. We want to continue the relationship we've developed with people in the area here and give the lakes and rivers and streams every resource we can," Thomas said.

A MESSAGE FROM
Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Join the Chamber!

- Unifying your voice at the provincial and national level
- Connect with your Community and Colleagues
- Leverage savings through Affinity Programs and Member Perks
- Getting you online with our searchable directory

If you would like to become a member of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce visit us at: haliburtonchamber.com

705-457-4700

Located at 5152 County Rd 21

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Highlander news

Made in Canada
HSF
Live Theatre
2026
Highlands Summer Festival
Anne of Green Gables
Doris & Ivy in the Home
Too Many Cooks
June 29 - July 8
July 13 - 20
July 27-31
July 21 - 23
August 2 - 6
Season passes & individual tickets now on sale!
Scan to purchase tickets and select seats online or phone [illegible] or toll free [illegible]
HighlandsSummerFestival.on.ca

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Now Seeking Members for Community Advisory Committee

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is seeking community-minded individuals interested in serving on a Community Advisory Committee, responsible for providing advice and insight to its Board of Directors on the delivery and future planning of community services in Haliburton County. The Advisory Committee will also provide linkages to the community on trends and issues related to the community services.

Key functions of the Community Advisory Committee will include providing advice on:

- Needs of community services clients
- The unique and diverse needs of the Haliburton County community
- Further opportunities for partnership and collaboration
- Best approaches for communicating with the community
- Feedback on the delivery of community services and future planning for services

The Committee generally meets on Thursday mornings 7 times per year.

If you feel you have the time, energy and commitment to be a member of this year's Community Advisory Committee, then we would like to hear from you by April 14, 2026.

For further information and an application package, please contact: Michel Henry via email at mhenry@hhhs.ca OR phone Michel at (705) 457-1392 Extension 2248.

Dr. Natalie Bocking announced her resignation from Lakelands Public Health. File

Dr. Bocking leaving public health unit

By Mike Baker

Highlands East deputy mayor Cec Ryall said he was disappointed but not surprised by the recent resignation of Dr. Natalie Bocking, the deputy medical officer of health with Lakelands Public Health (LPH).

Bocking's departure was announced during a Feb. 18 meeting of the LPH board.

She joined the then Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) in April 2021, replacing former medical officer of health Dr. Lynn Noseworthy. She operated in that role until early 2025, when HKPR and Peterborough Public Health (PPH) merged to become LPH. While Bocking applied for the top job with LPH, she lost out to Dr. Thomas Piggott – the medical officer of health with PPH. For the past year, she worked alongside Piggott as the health unit's second in command.

"When you have young people in roles, there's always the opportunity [for them] to move forward elsewhere," Ryall said. "We had two people that were both leaders in their respective areas working together. So, was it shocking? Maybe yes that it's happening right now… but I think [it was likely to] happen over time."

Ryall said there's no timeline in place for Bocking's departure, noting "that's something that's being worked out." He said she played a pivotal role in the merger between HKPR and PPH, which is still progressing.

At its January meeting, Piggott said it had been "a very hard year" for LPH as staff adapted to the merger. Consultant Jenn Harrington, of Arising Collective, reported staff expressed concern over the senior leadership team not functioning cohesively through the first year of the union.

Asked if he thought that had played a part in Bocking's departure, Ryall conceded it might have.

Ryall said Bocking was instrumental in leading the HKPR response to the COVID-19 pandemic and leading several program enhancements at a time when funding was scarce.

"From a professional opinion, she was an absolutely excellent person to work with. I had a great relationship with her… her strength really is – and perhaps this is one of the motivations for leaving – but she is an extremely proactive doctor. Very much involved in ensuring things that prevent disease were top of mind."

He confirmed LPH would be hiring a replacement, though likely not immediately.

"That is in the long run. We've still got work to do on the merger side, but I believe the intent is to replace her," Ryall said. "I think there will be restructuring. There will be a gap when Dr. Bocking leaves… we will have to figure out where our strengths are and what we'll be missing and work as best we can to plug those holes."

Bocking thanked

Piggott went on record to thank Bocking for her work advancing the merger, which officially went through Jan. 1, 2025.

"I have been deeply fortunate and grateful to work alongside Dr. Bocking through this really challenging journey for the organization and have a deep and immense respect for the work she's done here," Piggott said.

While Bocking has not commented on what the future holds for her, she said she'll look back on her time with HKPR and LPH fondly.

"My time here has granted me many amazing opportunities to work alongside passionate and committed staff and community partners… I've learned immensely from you all," Bocking said. "I have full confidence you will continue to put public health needs of the communities we serve first and foremost."

Pro fighter Cody Purtell is bringing a Cottage Country Combat League mixed martial arts event to Haliburton May 2. *Photo submitted.*

Fight night coming to Haliburton County

By Mike Baker

Bancroft's Cody Purtell says he wants to put Haliburton County on the map as one of Ontario's leading destinations for mixed martial arts (MMA).

The former professional fighter is bringing his Cottage Country Combat League promotion to Haliburton May 2, taking over A.J. LaRue Arena. The event will feature eight to 12 amateur MMA fights, all taking place inside a caged octagon.

"This is going to be my very first event," Purtell told *The Highlander*. "Ontario only legalized amateur MMA events last year, so I've been planning this ever since. I'm hoping to draw out a big crowd. If this is a success, I want to bring an event to Haliburton at least once a year."

Purtell, known as "The Constrictor" on the pro circuit, fought six times between 2016 and 2018 – winning once and losing five bouts. He's now using his years of experience to train the next generation out of his Bancroft Boxing and Grappling gym.

Opening last summer, the gym has about 90 members, with Purtell teaching boxing, kickboxing, freestyle wrestling and jiu-jitsu.

Originally, he wanted to host this first event in Bancroft – but renovations to the North Hastings Community Centre scuppered those plans. Living locally, Purtell said he pivoted quickly to Haliburton. Dysart et al council signed off on hosting the event in town last month.

"My goal is to bring a professionally-run, fully-regulated sporting event to Haliburton every May. If this goes well, we'll do this a couple of times a year. There are athletes all over who want to compete," Purtell said. "I'm trying to make this one of the best amateur events in Ontario. I want this to be something that people will travel to Haliburton for."

He anticipates between 40-80 fighters, trainers and crew pitching up in town for the weekend with a crowd of 800 to 1,000 in the stands. Purtell said the event could generate up to $80,000 for the local economy.

Tickets are on sale now, with three options – VIP tables around the ring, single VIP seating and general admission. Purtell said the event is sanctioned by the Ontario Athletic Commission, with professional security, medical personnel and licensed officials already secured. He said the matches will also be livestreamed online.

While the card has yet to be announced, Purtell said there will be fighters from all over the province participating. He noted an amateur champion fighting out of Big Country MMA in Lindsay will be on the show. He's also hoping to have at least one fighter from Haliburton involved.

The main part of the card will feature adults, but Purtell said he also wants to showcase some of the young up-and-coming talent he's been training too. One of those, aged 12, turned heads by winning gold at the recent Durham Classic Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu event in Oshawa in February.

"There will be some grappling matches showcasing younger talent – just to show that this is open to people of all ages," Purtell said. "There are benefits for younger kids getting trained in boxing and MMA. It teaches respect and helps bring confidence levels up. It also gives kids a safe place to go, where they can express themselves."

Following the success of his Bancroft gym, Purtell said he hopes to expand into Haliburton in the future.

Tickets for this event can be purchased online on Eventbrite. For more information, contact Purtell at 705-760-0338.

ADVERTORIAL

The septic bed and the sleeping bee

By Simon Payn

I want to do something with my septic leach bed. See, this work is nothing if not glamorous.

It's going to be fun, though. And it will make my home more joyful. Instead of the grass, I will have butterflies and bees and birds. What's not to like about that?

My septic went in about eight years ago and since then I've done nothing, except pull anything that shouldn't be there because it could damage the system.

I've watched the site change over time. It started as a few patches of what we might call weeds – the live-fast, die-young plants that specialize in healing land. Then some longer-lived perennials came in, and later the raspberries arrived.

It was the raspberries that made me get serious. I wanted them gone.

But if all I'd wanted was the thorny canes removed, I could have just levelled the whole thing. That would be easy: keep it mowed and under control.

But that is not how we do things here.

The joy of care

Last year, I did a quick inventory of the site. Two species stood out: a groundcover of Wild Strawberry and a perennial layer of Canada Goldenrod.

The strawberry is ideal. I often see it on septics because the conditions are perfect for this species. It greens up early when we're thirsty for some colour, has tiny white flowers and then bright red berries. Not sure I'd eat them, considering where they're growing, but the birds will. A groundcover like this is ideal for keeping weeds at a minimum because they won't get the light they need to germinate.

The goldenrod sure added some bright yellow pizazz to my home. And it's wonderful for late-season pollinators – it helps them get through the winter. But this particular species, while native, is pretty aggressive. The septic was becoming something of a monoculture and I want more diversity – because diversity is fun.

So I started selectively cutting back the goldenrod, picking away at it and weakening it. This will be a drip-drip process – I just need to pay attention to make sure it doesn't take over.

I also added some Early Meadowrue – delicate foliage perfect for a site that gets a lot of shade – violets for groundcover and colour, and some sedges. A good start. But more will come. All these are safe on a septic.

Care needs something different to our usual maintenance regime. It's not hard work – certainly less effort than hauling the mower – but it's nuanced work. It's the pleasure of noticing new plants that arrived by surprise and insects that feed on them, of finding a raspberry that crept back in and deciding to pull it. And also being fine with something that is never quite finished and always changing into something new.

The beetle with the shiny wings

And what do I get for all that? I know that this summer, I will be poking around on the septic, in a relaxed, zen kind of mood, just looking at what's there, making a few easy decisions – and I will notice a song sparrow hiding amid the perennials, and then I will see a bee sleeping in a flower and a black beetle with shiny green wings inching up a stem, and then another and then another.

And I will say to myself: we did that! We're caring for this land, me and nature together! We're doing our part to help the land be what it can be, benefiting not just me and my septic but countless other species, too. And I know that every year, it will get better and more fun as more plants arrive and establish and more creatures follow them.

Instead of feeling in opposition to my land, seeing it as a chore to be accomplished and a battle to win, I will feel like I'm part of it.

I will feel at home: not just in my property but at home in the wider world of nature.

> I know that every year, it will get better and more fun as more plants arrive.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes in Haliburton County. Visit groundedgardens.ca

Ecological gardens and shorelines designed and cared for over time

Native plant landscapes. Looked after, season after season.

For more info and a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca

grounded
GARDENING FOR LIFE

Editorial opinion

Shake off the lethargy

By Lisa Gervais

It's officially an election year.

Although the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project (HHHDP) started talking about Oct. 26 township elections last year, it's becoming more of a topic of conversation as spring looms and it's just 50 days until the nomination period opens.

Some readers may recall the HHHDP staged two events in 2025. Jessica Slade, who works as a civics consultant, facilitated a Sept. 16 session, walking folks through how they can contribute to community development by working alongside local government.

And, on Oct. 7, former MPs Barry Devolin (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock) and Maryam Monsef (Peterborough-Kawartha) spoke to people about why they should get involved by running for office, supporting a political campaign, or being an informed community member.

The project is back with two upcoming events.

On March 25, former councillors Pat Kennedy, Carol Moffatt, and Andrea Roberts, along with current councillor Dave Nicholson of Grey Highlands, will talk to people about what it's like to do the job and how life looks while doing it.

Then, on April 21, Lauren Hunter, a seasoned campaign strategist of more than 20 municipal, provincial, and federal campaigns, will share the building blocks of a successful campaign, whether for elected office, or for a cause people care about, along with practical tips and tools.

The project has some other ideas in the pipeline and we'll let you know about those when they are ready to reveal.

Naturally, we urge people to attend these sessions. Perhaps you are thinking of running for council. If so, bravo, we need you. Acclamations kill voter turnout, and in turn, threaten democracy.

If you are worried about being outed as a potential candidate, you don't have to go to these public meetings. You can watch the recordings on the project's website.

And you don't have to be a potential candidate to attend. Maybe you know someone you think would be a great councillor, but might need some convincing.

Or maybe you just want to be more involved in community, whether thinking about being on a council committee, or even starting to watch council meetings online. Maybe you have not voted in the past, and think now is the time.

We applaud any and all of these reasons. We want more people to run for council; we want them to have support teams; we want people to engage with councils; and we really want people to vote.

Municipal government is the level that is closest to us. "Don't care" you say? Well, do you drive on our roads, use our landfills, go to arenas and ball fields, public beaches and boat launches? Do you care about recruiting family doctors and ensuring the County has a strong tourism sector? Do you believe in social services, such as housing, and having affordable daycare in Haliburton County? Your councils are involved in these things too.

You should care.

C'mon Haliburton County, shake off that lethargy along with the winter coat.

NATURE'S CALLING

Sweet adventure begins

By Terri Cooper

As we step into March, there's a certain excitement that fills the air. It's the beginning of maple syrup season.

For many households, including ours, this time of the year is marked by the tapping of maple trees, transforming our natural landscape into a bustling hub of activity. The process of collecting sap from the trees and turning it into rich, golden syrup is not just a culinary delight; it's a cherished tradition that connects generations and brings families closer together.

March break is just around the corner, making it the perfect opportunity to explore the art of maple syrup making with your children. Visiting a maple sugar shack is an engaging way for families to learn about this beloved tradition. Many shacks offer tours that explain how the sap is collected, boiled down, and processed into syrup. You and your kids can witness the magic of nature firsthand, seeing how a simple tree sap can become the delicious syrup we pour over a warm stack of pancakes or waffles.

In our family, this year we are looking forward to having our grandchildren come over and learn about maple syrup. Children are always curious, asking questions about how sap flows and why certain weather conditions matter. I can't wait to see the grandkids' faces when they see how it all works and then when they get to taste the golden goodness at the end.

One of the first lessons we will explore is that to produce maple syrup, the temperature must swing back and forth between freezing nights and warm days. This temperature fluctuation creates a pressure change in the trees, allowing sap to flow freely.

A fun fact that often surprises not only children, but adults, is the sheer volume of sap required to make maple syrup. For every 40 gallons of sap collected, only about one gallon of syrup is produced. This fact can teach us about the value of patience and resourcefulness. Each drop of sap represents nature's bounty, reminding us to respect and appreciate the resources around us. Moreover, understanding the importance of tapping trees broadens our appreciation for the environment. Maple trees can live for over 100 years and play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.

Another delightful fact about maple syrup is that it is a completely natural product, free from additives or preservatives. Maple syrup is packed with minerals and antioxidants, offering a healthier alternative to processed sugars.

As we prepare for this year's activities, I can already envision the laughter and learning that will take place as we tap the trees, gather the sap, and then process into syrup. This season is going to be more than just making syrup, it's going to be an opportunity to bond with my grandchildren, teach them valuable lessons about nature, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

So, grab a buddy, plan a visit to a nearby sugar shack, and let the sweet adventure begin.

Enjoy the maple syrup season.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

OUR STAFF

PUBLISHER
Laurie Johnston
laurie@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL
Lisa Gervais, Editor
editor@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker, Asst. Editor
mike@thehighlander.ca

SALES
Dawn Poissant
dawn@thehighlander.ca

Aidan McKnight
aidan@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Glenda Mumford
admin@thehighlander.ca

AD DESIGN | LAYOUT
David Partridge, Designer
production@thehighlander.ca

DISTRIBUTION
Walt Griffin

[illegible]
Ruby

CONTACT

705-457-[illegible]
123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

Audited Circulation 5,577 (Jan 1 – June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada
Canada

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Elephant Lake development

Dear editor,

I opened the paper last Thursday morning and was proud to live in Dysart.

In their opposition to the Elephant Lake subdivision, mayor Murray Fearrey and Dysart et al council are taking seriously the responsibility of leadership of such a wild treasure as Haliburton.

Dysart is not against development - 2023's 90-acre purchase to expand the town is proof of that - but it has to be development that makes sense for our forests, our wetlands and our communities.

Council has shown itself willing to fight for the best version of our County and I'll stand behind them to the end.

Duncan Fenning-Nichol
Old Donald Road

Parking an issue at Minden health hub

Dear editor,

I've used the health care system in Haliburton County for 42 years. After my husband died, I moved to Minden. Dr. Neil Thomas, the only GP in this area, became my doctor.

Dr. Thomas guided me through hip and shoulder replacements, chemotherapy, radiation, and the side effects of cancer treatment.

In the 18 months I was away undergoing treatment, health care in Minden drastically changed.

The outstanding Minden ER with highly-skilled doctors was closed. Trying to access Dr. Thomas became a nightmare. Parking is an almost impossible task. There are only three disabled parking spots and four others on that side of the building for all services. There is no designated parking for the doctor or staff.

What was HHHS thinking? I have missed, and been late for, appointments because there was no place to park. My neighbours and friends all have the same complaint.

I have tried parking at Hyland Crest, but Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are exercise classes for seniors. Tuesdays and Thursdays are senior activities in the auditorium and there is also a foot clinic inside as well as clients in long-term care. Attendees park on one side of the street for two-plus blocks.

I stopped attending the foot clinic because I could not get a parking spot. Parking is a huge issue and obviously was not considered when moving all these services to one small building.

HHHS should start discussing and planning a proper medical building for doctors, staff, patients/clients with the appropriate medical services and parking, that meets the needs of the community.

Sharon Lawrence
Minden

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Melissa Cassano of Hamilton took this photo on Maple Lake.

PSW expresses frustration

Dear editor,

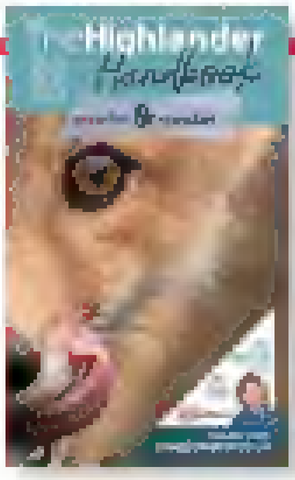
I wanted to comment on the Humans of Haliburton Highlands column about feeling wanted and needed as a personal support worker in Haliburton County. This person moved to the County and quickly secured a job.

I'm assuming it is institutional homecare. I have been hired by two companies, but the question is "am I working yet"? I was just recently offered a 12-hour shift, but that doesn't fit my schedule.

My pet peeve? Haliburton County apparently has a PSW shortage and I've experienced why. Number one: the job seeker just gives up from useless orientations. Number two, waiting over two months to work after being hired. Number three: homecare agencies get contracts and there are a few companies I could list.

I could say as a PSW who would prefer community homecare, people like me, just eventually give up, and that is why we have a PSW shortage and lack of homecare coverage.

Darlene Loucks
Minden



Your photo could be the cover of our Highlander Handbook!

Send us your high quality photos* (2 MB min) to be used for this year's Highlander Handbook

Please ensure the photographer's name is in the email and send entries to:
production@thehighlander.ca

**Limit of 3 photos*

CELEBRATING

40

Years in Real Estate!

THANKS TO YOU!

35 YEARS WITH RE/MAX

TOP 10 IN HALIBURTON & MUSKOKA REGIONS FOR 2025

#1 MARKET SHARE IN HALIBURTON COUNTY

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

RE/MAX LIFETIME

RE/MAX HALL OF FAME

CHAIRMAN'S

PLATINUM

100%

VINCE DUCHENE

REALTOR®

705 457 0046

vince@vinceduchene.ca

vinceduchene.ca

Sleeping out to raise money for housing

By Mike Baker

Places for People's (P4P) Nataly Mylan said her non-profit's upcoming Sleeping in Cars fundraiser is all about enduring short-term pain for long-term gain.

The event returns to the Head Lake Park parking lot Mar. 6-7, where Mylan expects around 30 people to rough it overnight in their vehicles. Now in its seventh year, Mylan said the fundraiser provides perspective to participants on how fortunate they are to have a roof over their heads.

"It's uncomfortable, a little on the chilly side, but it's all about ensuring that people have gratitude and don't take the things we have in life for granted," Mylan said. "When you're stuck in your car and your legs are going to sleep, you're going to be reminded about how comfortable and beautiful that bed is at home, and how grateful you are to have it."

After raising north of $40,000 last time out – the event's best return yet – Mylan is aiming to hit $60,000 this year. As of March [illegible], the [illegible] was at $8,770.

Gaining momentum as a grassroots community effort, Mylan said Sleeping in Cars is gaining more traction in the County's business community this year. Amber-Dawn Molyneaux has confirmed her business, [illegible] Designs, will have a team stuffing up [illegible] again, with Mad Renda's Brewing [illegible] also pitching in.

The Mill Pond Restaurant in Carnarvon is donating $[illegible] from every coffee sold through March, with all proceeds going to P4P, while Haliburton Cable Group, RE/MAX Professionals North and MyFinal Marketing have also donated to the cause.

[illegible] Molyneaux said it's an event close to her heart. She's been participating for three years, after finding out that one of her employees spent time living in their car.

"Sleeping in Cars raises not only funds and awareness while shining a light on a reality that often goes unseen in our community: housing insecurity," Molyneaux said. "While Haliburton County is known for its beautiful lakes and strong sense of community, access to safe, appropriate and affordable housing remains a serious challenge for many young families and working professionals. Too often homelessness is hidden through temporary solutions like couch surfing or sleeping in vehicles.

"Housing insecurity isn't just an affordability issue. It's a ripple issue – the ripple effects touch everyone," she added.

Mylan said P4P is doing its part to address that shortfall in affordable housing. It currently owns 15 units in the County and has plans to add 15 more next year, once Habitat for Humanity completes its 35-unit build overlooking Head Lake.

With P4P a partner in that project, Mylan said the project is on schedule to break ground in 2027. She said housing permits should be issued in the coming fall. The non-profit has said it will likely take millions of dollars to purchase the 15 units once construction is wrapped.

"We are moving forward on this with lightning speed [illegible] I think now more than ever we're beginning to realize the scope of the housing problem in our area. We're also discovering that unless we as a community are the ones to step up and take on the challenge, that nobody else is going to do this for us," Mylan said. "We want our community to thrive, to be resilient, and the way to do that is by making sure there is space for everyone to live affordably."

To donate, search 'sleeping in cars 2026' on www.zeffy.com.

Organizer Nataly Mylan is hoping to raise $60,000 for Places for People through this year's Sleeping in Cars fundraiser. /File

Board Member Recruitment for 2026/2027

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services including emergency and inpatient, long-term care, and community support services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.
HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board's standing committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with a background in legal, and in construction, engineering or project management. We also continue to look for individuals with backgrounds in governance, finance & accounting, clinical and patient & healthcare advocacy.**

How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **April 14, 2026**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at
https://hhhs.ca/governance/leadership-board-and-management

Inquiries can be directed to:

Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: 705-45[illegible]

FROZEN PIPES?

DON'T PANIC

CASEY'S WATER WELL & GEOTHERMAL

CALL CASEY'S

WATER LINE THAWING & WATER WELL REAPAIRS

HEATLINE INSTALLATION

SEPTIC LINE THAWING & SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIRS

705-457-9558

We don't stop here – check out our website for our other services:

Waterwell.ca

2026 Municipal Election

Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members

The Corporations of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Township of Minden Hills, the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Municipality of Highlands East, are currently seeking interested applicants from professionals who are required to adhere to codes of standards of their profession, and other individuals with in depth knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* for appointment to a **Joint Compliance Audit Committee**.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee has full delegation of the authority in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to address applications requesting an audit of a candidate's election campaign finances. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Review applications and grant or reject audit requests
- Where an audit is granted, appoint an auditor and review the audit report
- Where indicated, decide whether legal proceedings shall be commenced.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee will consist of members appointed by each Council. Committee members must have the ability to understand and apply the election campaign finance provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and should be considered impartial with respect to their ability to fulfil their responsibilities. Preference shall be given to candidates that have applicable experience in accounting, law, law enforcement and academics from related fields.

Preferred Qualifications

(a) Accounting and audit – accountants or auditors with experience in preparing or auditing the financial statements of municipal candidates
(b) Academic – college or university professors with expertise in political science or local government administration.
(c) Legal; and
(d) Other individuals with knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996.*

Members of the public interested in serving on this Committee are asked to submit a resume, and covering letter marked "Confidential" no later than Noon on March 13, 2026 to

Vicki Bull, Clerk
Township of Minden Hills
Box 359, 7 Milne St. Minden, ON K0M 2K0
admin@mindenhills.ca

For further information, please contact Vicki Bull, Clerk by email at admin@mindenhills.ca

We thank all applicants for applying, but only the selected candidates will be contacted. Personal information and supporting material is collected and used in accordance with the ***Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.***

Alex Labelle speaks to a class at J. Douglas Hodgson. Photos by Lisa Gervais

Connecting through canoe-building

By Lisa Gervais

Alex Labelle built a nine-foot birch bark canoe last week while fielding questions from students at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

Some of the queries included how many boats [illegible] water [illegible] his boats, if he has ever sunk a canoe, and how old he is.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board's Indigenous student success team and Indigenous guides at JDH and Stuart Baker Elementary school brought the 30-year-old in last week.

Labelle built the canoe at the JDH foyer using traditional practices.

He is a Métis canoe builder of Algonquin ancestry from Mattawa. He learned the craft from his grandfather, Marcel Labelle, and shares his knowledge with others through presentations and in-house construction of canoes.

While working on the canoe last week, Labelle told The Highlander he makes the [illegible] with spruce gum as a sealant. He added, "the neat thing about culture is also a [illegible], so we're protected on the water."

Labelle said his grandparents taught him not just about canoes, but about the traditions and living off the land, including trapping, hunting and fishing. "You learn from the older generation."

Labelle said his grandparents were his daycare after school, and on weekends, so he has been building them since he was a toddler.

"That's why I enjoy the process of building canoes. It's a whole lot of peace, just slows everything down, and requires patience. You're working with natural materials. There is no such thing as perfect and taking your time is a big lesson."

He has been going into schools since he was 18. He thinks kids relate to him because of his age.

"The teaching is connection, I hope. If people are separated by beliefs, or anything that causes them not to be friends, that having that connection is important. Because connection is what brings the canoe together.

"I hope they take away that you need to slow down in life. Bad things happen when you speed through. Sometimes it's okay to take a step back and see how far you've come."

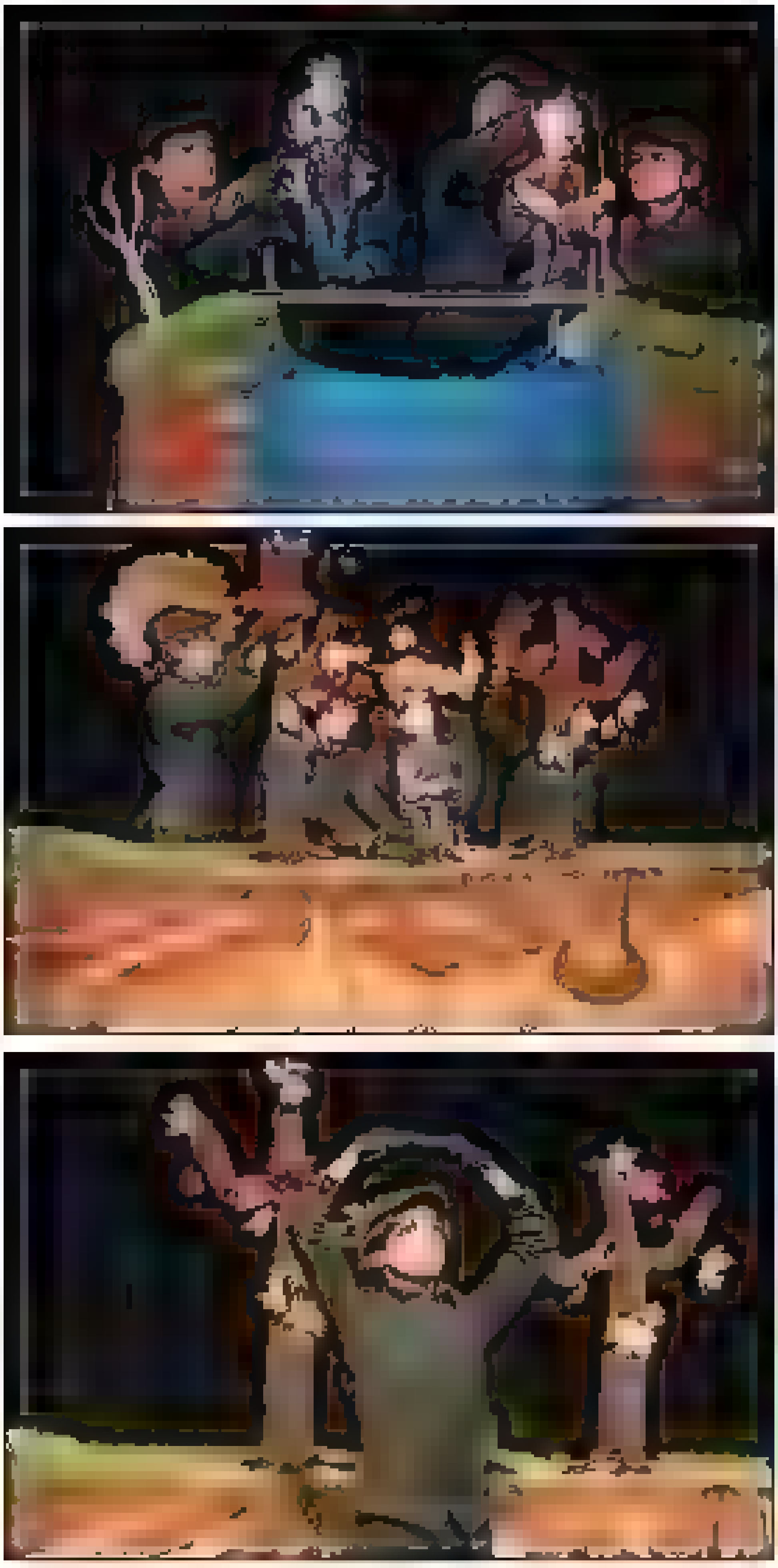
JDH Grade 5 teacher Erin McSalgin-Scott said [illegible] year was part of a year-long learning series. Every month or so, they have hosted an Indigenous guest with a different background or ancestry.

She said the theme is "what does it mean to be a good ancestor?" She hoped Labelle's visit would connect students with nature. She said there were also learnings in science, technology, engineering, math and social studies.

Sherry Telford of the Indigenous program added, "Canoe-making is a passion for many in Haliburton County. Its history is a natural interest in how canoes have been traditionally built in this area. If we look carefully in the forests, every material in the canoe can be found near us.

"As we observed and asked Alex questions, we learned about Indigenous culture and understandings of this land, Algonquin and Métis, and about the gifts that each material in the canoe provides in order for the canoe to function. We learned about respect for harvesting, so there is always enough for others and for future generations. We witnessed perseverance, problem-solving and patience. To me, that's amazing learning."

Highlander events



A Wee show for the Highlands

There was a party atmosphere inside the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion again March 7 as Razzamataz Kids Shows welcomed Toronto's Wee Festival for its Old Man on the River puppeteering performance. The show focused on themes of friendship, communication and adjusting to change. It was designed to be a silent feature focusing more on visual elements, making it accessible to children of all sensibilities. The 45-minute spectacle was also performed to students from Cardiff and Stuart Baker elementary schools March 5 as part of Razzamataz's Theatre in Schools program. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Puppeteers Afsaneh Zamani, Kira Hall, Andrew Young and Shaharah Gaznabbi bring the Old Man and his magical companion to life. Middle: The Old Man observes a seasonal change. Bottom: Gaznabbi takes centre stage. *Photos by Michael Wilson*

SIR SAM'S

MARCH EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC ALL MONTH LONG:

March 14 Gary Baumgartner
March 21 Mixed Bag
March 28 Jeff Moulton

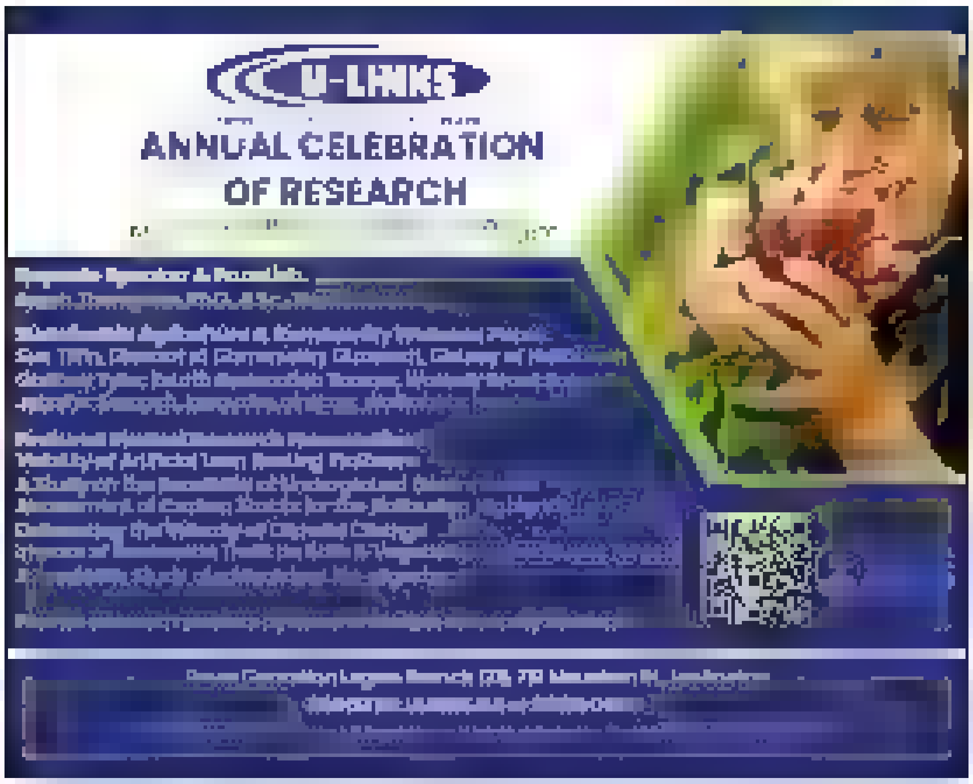
Spring is meeting season and we're here to help! From 10-55 we have your day meeting or overnight events covered. Call us to book.

Spa & WaterSpa Soothe your sore muscles in the WaterSpa or have a relaxing Spa Therapy session with us. Visit the Spa page of www.sirsamsinn.com for details or to book.

Prime Rib Monday! Settle into our lakeview dining room for slow-roasted perfection with Yorkshire pudding, au jus, and your choice of potato and salad.

Fish Fryday Join us Fridays and enjoy Halibut and Chips for $28.95 OR Pan Seared Pickerel or Salmon with your choice of potato $38. Both include salad and are plus tax.

CALL FOR QUESTIONS OR RESERVATIONS 705-754-2188



U-LINKS

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF RESEARCH

INSTANT REFUND

WHY WAIT? GET YOUR REFUND NOW*

For more info, visit an H&R Block location near you.

H&R BLOCK
HRBLOCK.CA 1-800-HRBLOCK (472-5625)

62 Maple Avenue
Haliburton
705-457-1676

22 Snow Road
Bancroft
613-332-4466

Highlander events

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey parcel of land more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLRA2026102**: The Original Allowance for a Road, Part of Lot 78 and Part of Sixth Street Registered Plan No. 172 and is identified as Allister Street and locally known as McKay Street, lying in front of Property Roll #46 16-010-000-69300, Geographic Township of Anson.

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on April 10, 2026.

AND TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider the By-law for the above referenced application will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Location Map

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 608
csisson@mindenhills.ca

Township of Minden Hills Septic System Maintenance Inspection Program

The Township of Minden Hills is committed to protecting the quality of our surface and groundwater resources and ensuring the long-term health of our lakes and rivers.

In accordance with the Ontario Building Code, the annual Septic System Maintenance Inspection Program is underway for properties located within Zone [illegible] on the inspection map that can be found on our website (www.mindenhills.ca).

There will be an **information session** on April [illegible] 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, 55 Parkside St., Minden ON K0M 2K0.

Program Details:

Objective: [illegible]

Schedule: Inspections are expected to occur between beginning of May and end of October.

Process: A [illegible] inspection of the [illegible] will be conducted [illegible] inspection. Property owners will receive a letter by mail starting March 2026 with instructions and information.

Owner Responsibilities:

Ensure all septic tank access lids (usually two) are exposed and accessible for the inspector as well as pump chambers (if applicable).

Owners are not required to be present for the inspection but are welcome to attend.

Information and Resources

For more information on the program, inspection schedules, and homeowner responsibilities please visit the Township of Minden Hills website at mindenhills.ca or contact the Building Services Department.

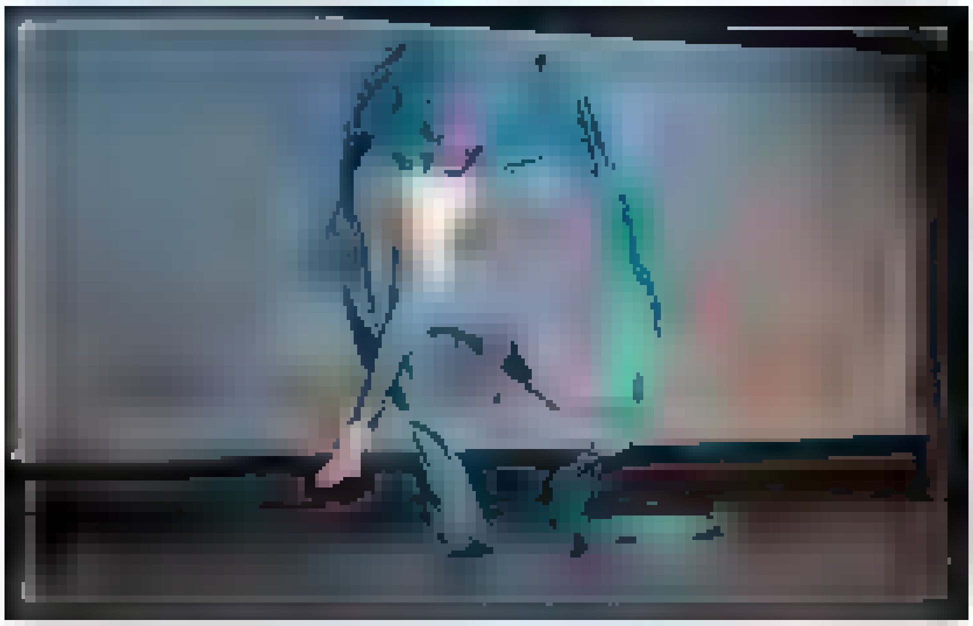
[illegible] 705 286-1260 ext 513
Email: [illegible]@mindenhills.ca

Your cooperation is vital in this proactive program focused on preserving our natural environment.

Boot scootin' boogie

The Highlands East Skating Club welcomed its Boot Scootin' Boogie skating carnival March 7 at the Keith Tallman Memorial Arena in Wilberforce. Club skaters got to show off all they have learned this winter while parents, family and friends enjoyed a free show with refreshments. (Lisa Gervais)

Top: Back, Everett Foulds, Kenna Silver, Madison Burroughs, Forrest Peterson, Anna Foulds, and Kyson Hall; Front, Autumn Payne and River Thompson. Middle: Intermediate skaters – The Dixie Chicks 'Shasl' Banchikova, Ivory LaRose, Kora Aiden and Earl (Amaya Tope). Bottom: Sisters LaRose and Tope. Submitted.



Strutting their stuff on stage

Skyline Dance Studio brought its spring showcase to Haliburton March 7 with 39 dancers from its pre-competitive team performing in two shows at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Skyline's Amanda Conn said the showcase "gives dancers the opportunity to show their family, friends and community what they have been working on this dance season and allows them to practice on stage under the lights before going to competitions later this spring." There were 51 different numbers over the weekend including routines in ballet, jazz, contemporary/lyrical dance, musical theatre, hip hop, acro and various open categories. The Skyline team will be competing at DanceAttack in Cobourg later this month, Breakthru in Ottawa in April and Shooting Stars in Huntsville in May. /Mike Baker.

Top: Brooklyn Bjelis, Kendall Pare, Grace Pocket, Isabella Valentini, Chloe Morsaente, Skye Dixon and Alivia Brown during a group number. Middle: [illegible] displaying some serious hang time. Bottom: Kelley Cox was wrapped up in blue. *Photos by Mariah Wilson*

Mute Eloquence of Light:
Arctic Works
Janet Read
March [illegible] 26 – May 23 2026

AGNES JAMIESON GALLERY
Artist Talk and Reception Saturday, April [illegible] 1 – 3 pm
MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre
Open Tuesday to Saturday, [illegible] am – 4 pm
176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
705-286-3763 culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

FLEMING
Job & Volunteer Fairs
March 24
1 – 3:30 p.m.
Royal Cdn Legion, Haliburton
April 8
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Minden Community Centre

CONTACT us for more information:
[illegible]
FLEMING

DIONNE MORGAN
CPA
YEAR ROUND SUPPORT TAX RETURNS
[illegible]
UNIT 12, 187 Highland Street
[illegible]
dionnemorgancpa@gmail.com
office: 705-457-3222 mobile: 705-455-1421

READ THE HIGHLANDER ANYWHERE!

HALIBURTON TIMBER MART
5148 Cty Rd 21
705 457 2510
haliburtontimber.com
info@haliburtontimber.com
FREE DELIVERY

GO HUSKIES GO!

Celebrating 30 Years
CHURKO ELECTRIC
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL
Professionalism at Your Service!

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS
HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES
PROUD SPONSOR
Highway 35 Minden (across from Ridgewood Ford)

Vasey Insurance
Brokers Limited
PROUD SPONSOR OF THE HALIBURTON HUSKIES
Haliburton 705-457-2100 Minden 705-286-2231
www.vaseyinsurance.com

COTTAGE COUNTRY BUILDING SUPPLIES
castle
Highway 118 | Carnarvon | Ontario
705-489-2212 | sales@cottagecbs.com

Huskies forward Isaac Lormand makes a diving play in a 3-2 loss to the Newmarket Hurricanes in game two of the OJHL playoffs in Minden March 8. *Photo courtesy of Tim Bates/OJHL Images*

Huskies on the ropes

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies have their backs against the wall, down 3-0 in their first round Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) playoffs match-up with the Newmarket Hurricanes.

The blue and white dropped back-to-back games March 7 and 8 and lost a heartbreaker March 10 to put them in a major hole.

Speaking before the post-season puck dropped last weekend, Huskies bench boss Jordan Bailey said it would mean the world to this franchise to deliver a big win for the community. While the Huskies have made playoffs in each of its five seasons playing in Haliburton County, the furthest they've gotten is the eastern conference finals, which they lost to the Trenton Golden Hawks last year.

"We want to get over that hump and win our conference. We haven't gotten there yet, we've been close … so the message to the guys has been let's try to do it this year," Bailey said.

The team got off to a rough start in game one March 7, dropping a 3-1 decision on the road in Newmarket. Chase Quinn got the home side off to a good start, breaking the deadlock at 9:14 before [illegible] Haynes and Simon Wang [illegible] put the blue and white in a hole.

Isaac Lormand, the Huskies top goalscorer in the regular season, evened things up on the powerplay a couple of minutes into the middle frame, scoring at 2:12 from Chase Del[illegible] and Nate Taylor.

That was as good as it got for the visitors, though, with Haynes potting the game-winner 17:30 into the second and Marcus [illegible] into an empty net with a minute to go in the third. The Huskies outshot Newmarket 38-33 and went 1-4 on the powerplay. Goaltender Ethan Edwards made 30 saves.

It was one of the biggest crowds of the season at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena March 8 and the Huskies looked ready to send their fans home happy after two periods.

Justin Dumin scored early in the first at 6:23 from Keenan Rayson and Del[illegible], with Josh Humes making it a two-goal game 11:03 into the middle period, with apples going to Rayson and Liam Travis.

After stopping 36 shots through the first two frames, Edwards could do nothing to prevent the Newmarket onslaught in the third. Wang lit the lamp, bringing the Hurricanes back into the game with [illegible] seconds played in the period, with [illegible] and Wang doing it at 12:44 and [illegible] Perlaps helping himself to the game-winning goal at 16:43.

The Huskies were outshot 16-7 in the third and 42-34 in the game.

The Huskies found themselves behind after just 54 seconds on Tuesday, but rallied late in the period with goals from Lormand and Carter Peart, giving them a lead in intermission. Newmarket rallied and scored straight in the final two frames to claim a 5-2 victory.

Thursday's tilt (March 13) in Minden could be the Huskies last of the season. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. Game five, if required, is March 14 in Newmarket, game six will be back in Minden March 15, with a 3 p.m. puck drop, with game seven back in Newmarket March 18.

Overtime goal caps off major U15 playoff victory

The U15 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX team continued its strong playoff push this week after an impressive 5-0 round robin record, defeating Brock, Mariposa, Millbrook, Newcastle and Durham to finish first overall and advance to the semifinals. The team is also currently riding a 13-game winning streak and is undefeated in their last 18 games.

U15 Rep is now facing Mariposa in a best-of-three semifinal series, and March 3's opening game proved to be a thrilling back-and-forth battle.

Mariposa struck first, scoring twice to take a 2-0 lead. The Storm responded with their resilience and teamwork, beginning the comeback when [illegible] squared the scoring with assists from Brady Burke and Chase Kerr.

Shortly after, Bennett Proctor tied the game with helpers from Kellam Bagshaw and Brody Bull.

The Storm continued their push when Austin Cunningham restored the lead, assisted by Hunter Hamilton. Mariposa answered in the third period to even the score and force 3-on-3 overtime.

In the extra frame, Hamilton sealed the victory, powering through three Mariposa defenders before burying the game-winning goal, assisted by Cruze Neave.

A strong defensive effort was key throughout the game, with the Storm blueline of Hudson Meyer, Tyler [illegible] Hughes, Liam Mallory, James [illegible] and Duncan Evans-Tuckler playing steady minutes and helping limit Mariposa's opportunities.

The team is also thinking of teammate Lucas Olsen, who is currently sidelined with an injury, and wishing him all the best for a speedy recovery.

In net, Caitlin Elliott turned in a solid performance while Blake Blackburn has also been instrumental in the success through the playoff push.

It was truly a full team effort, with contributions throughout the lineup and every line finding the score sheet. (Submitted)

The Storm celebrate a goal. Photo by Lisa Gervais

STARS of the WEEK

HUNTER HAMILTON

Hunter adds a scoring touch to ensure a win for his team, in shorthanded situations he's all finding ways to bury the puck.

CRUZE NEAVE

Cruze is consistent and always someone to count on. Leads this team in his own way with heart and drive.

CHASE KERR

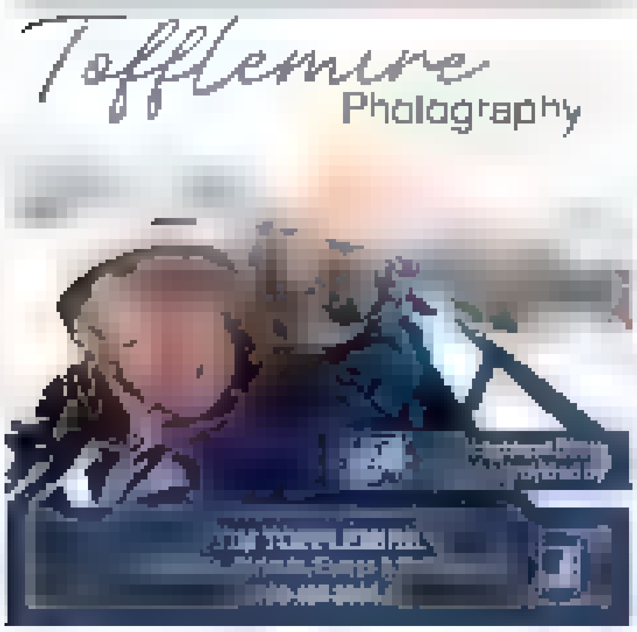
Bringing a much more physical presence on the ice, body checking people twice his size. Chase is the guy!

Photos by Tina Tofflemire

SCORE BOARD

March 2
U15 Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Woodville 7-0 L
March 3
U9 Sharp Electric vs Lindsay 6-4 L
U11 Carquest Minden vs Kawartha 5-3 W
U15 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Mariposa 4-3 W
U18 A&W Haliburton vs Lindsay [illegible] T
March 5
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs U15 Minden Pharmasave 5-[illegible] Minden Pharmasave
March 6
U18 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Millbrook 6-[illegible] W
March 7
U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Sturgeon 4-3 L
U11 Minden Carquest vs Millbrook 4-[illegible] L
U11 Rep Tom Prentice and Sons vs Ennismore 6-3 W
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs Durham 4-3 L
U9 Sharp Electric vs Brock 4-[illegible] W
U15 Minden Pharmasave vs Lindsay 8-3 L
U13 Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Durham 4-3 L
March 8
U9 Sharp Electric vs Hornets 4-2 W
U18 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Millbrook 5-0 W

Tim Hortons
MINDEN & HALIBURTON


Tofflemire Photography

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS
For every auto or marine battery donated to CarQuest
We will donate $10 to Storm Minor Hockey
HIGHLAND STORM
PROUD SPONSOR

50 YEARS
HAWK RIVER
CONSTRUCTION LTD
705-457-[illegible] hawkriver.ca

What's on

[illegible]

Monday: [illegible]
Tuesday: [illegible]
Wednesday: [illegible]
Thursday: [illegible]
Friday: [illegible]
Saturday: [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] **Monday to Thursday** [illegible]
Friday [illegible]
Saturday [illegible]
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: [illegible]

Monday: [illegible]
Monday: [illegible]
Thursday: [illegible]

[illegible]

Monday: [illegible]
Tuesday: [illegible]
Wednesday: [illegible]
Thursday: [illegible]
Friday: [illegible]
Saturday: [illegible]
Sunday: [illegible]

[illegible]

Hours: [illegible]
Events: [illegible]
Everyone welcome

EVENTS

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

March [illegible]

CANOE
Radio Bingo

Join us every Tuesday night @ 6pm
for the County's #1 Game

Play on Mar 17th

& Win up to $2 400 with Triple Bingo!

Have fun while helping.
It's a win – win!

Canoe FM – Working Toward a Stronger Community

www.canoefm.com

Nice place,
but you need
some art in
here.

We've got that.
Come see us.

CORNER
GALLERY

www.cornergallery.ca [illegible] Maple Ave

Calendar Girls to lift people's spirits

By Lisa Gervais

As we enter late winter and early spring, Highlands Little Theatre's Kate Butler said it's a good time to give Highlanders a laugh.

The local troupe is staging Calendar Girls March [illegible] – 23 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

Written by Tim Firth, folks have likely seen the 2003 movie with Helen Mirren.

Describing the stage play premise, Butler said it's a story of a group of women who belong to a women's institute in Yorkshire, north of England, who decide to turn thoughts into something else. When one of them loses her husband to cancer, they decide they want to raise funds by making, as they term it, an alternative calendar.

The women are mature aged, and Butler said all come with their own stories, backgrounds, and different levels of bravery and enthusiasm about the project.

The cast comprises 13 actors, with six of them being the calendar girls.

Butler said, "One of the things I love is every role in the show gets their moment to shine, or many moments."

Asked why they chose this particular play, she said they were discussing ideas when Rita Jackson suggested *Calendar Girls* to director Dave Brechin. She said the script made the rounds and they "collectively concluded 'we can do this.'"

"Highlands Little Theatre does love to put on a show that has some comedy in it, that has some feel-good aspects in it. Quite often, because we do a show late winter, early spring, we want to lift people's spirits as it's the time of year when we all need that."

Asked about the calendar shoot in the script, Brechin said they talked about it and the calendar girls "set the parameters. I didn't want to be the one pushing it. It will be a discreet, but not overt, exposure. It's making a reasonable adult [illegible] that is anything but [illegible] and fun."

The cast did an actual calendar shoot that will be presented and sold with proceeds going to the [illegible] Retreat and Cancer Support Centre.

Butler said it's been a fun play to rehearse. "There have been some days where we thought [illegible]. We're just going all the nuts and be moving to tell us all. It really has been a feel-good project all the way through. We've grown so much closer as a cast. The script is funny to begin with, then you add in the right group of people."

The cast comprises Butler, Elizabeth Oakley, Karen Frybort, John Jackson, Rita Jackson, Christine Jones-Simpson, Renee Griffith, Kate Hall, Dave Zilstra, Jordan Kovacs, Elise Boucher, Judy McIlmurray and Norma Bagham.

Butler said, "I can guarantee you'll laugh. It is also a very heart-warming story and it may cause you to have a little tear or two. It really is a story about doing something that might be outside your comfort zone. Take that leap … maybe there is inspiration in that as well."

Tickets are available from the Haliburton County Community Cooperative page; follow the link from Highlands Little Theatre https://www.[illegible] and there will be tickets at the door.

(L-R) Karen Frybort, Christine Jones-Simpson, Elizabeth Oakley and Renee Griffith rehearse. Submitted.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-[illegible]-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

MARCH BREAK AT THE ARENA

- A Babysitters Course is scheduled for Tuesday March 17th from 9:00am-4:00pm for $49 for youth [illegible] years old.
- A Home Alone Safety for Kids Course is being offered on Friday March 20th from 9:00am-4:00pm for $40 for youth 9-12 years old.
- Extra drop-in skating times have been added to the schedule for the week.

Sign up for Zoo To You coming for 2 different sessions on Monday March 16th.

Take a look at the full list of events online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation

REGISTER TO VOTE

The next municipal election will be held Monday, October 26, 2026.

To register and/or confirm your information, visit the Elections Ontario Register to Vote portal at RegisterToVoteON.ca

Make sure your school support designation is up to date by June [illegible] 2026 by visiting mpac.ca/schoolsupport

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section [illegible] of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers – 7 Milne St. Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- March 12 – Regular Council Meeting
- March 26 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

VOTE
Minden Hills October 26 2026
Municipal & School Board Election
www.mindenhills.ca
elections@mindenhills.ca 705-286-1260 ext [illegible]
Your Election Team
[illegible]

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Join us for the 3rd annual Archie Stouffer Student Art Exhibition on display until March 21 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.
- A selection of artwork from the Agnes Jamieson Gallery's permanent collection, as well as new acquisitions, is now on display. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm.
- Join us for March Break Drop-in Programs at Nature's Place, March 16 – 20 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Each day will feature a mini discovery session followed by hands-on activities. Open to all ages (recommended for children 5-12).

Program Schedule:

- March 16 – Animal Detectives
- March 17 – Wildlife Tracks and Clues
- March 18 – All About Wolves
- March 19 – Incredible Insects with special guest local entomologist [illegible]
- March 20 – Creatures of the Night

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 | Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 | Fax: 705-286-4917
[illegible]

Highlander classifieds

HOME & COTTAGE

EVERYTHING ICF

[illegible]

Nesbitt's Firewood

COTTAGE MAINTENANCE

DOCK REMOVAL

COTTAGE CLOSING

FALL COTTAGE MAINTENANCE

RELAX... LET ME DO THE WORK!

Fully Insured

Call or text Norm Barry

705-457-8163

mb@normbarry.com

normbarry.ca

Concrete Slabs

Block & ICF Foundations

Foundation Sealing

Mini excavator & skidsteer services

Derek Bowden

705-754-5372

25 years experience

MYERS CHIMNEY

- Sweeping · Installation
- Repair · Inspection
- Stove Glass Replacement
- Wood & Pellet stove Sales & Service

Visit our showroom on South Lake Road

705-286-1245

www.myerschimney.com

Blaze King

TASN The Appliance Service Network

Rick Gibson

Certified Technician

705-489-1414

rick@tasn.ca

www.tasn.ca

35 Years of Servicing All Makes of Appliances

Solar + Windy

INSULATION SYSTEMS

OVER 30 YEARS

BLOWN IN FIBERGLASS INSULATION

KEITH JENNINGS

Haliburton & Kawartha

ONTARIO ESTATES LANDSCAPE LTD

705-333-5989

ontarioestateslandscape.ca

ontarioestates@gmail.com

Septics Shorelines Custom landscapes Pools

CASEY'S
EST 2014

KEGEL HEATING & COOLING

Tim Kegel

Bus. 705-341-9470

info@kegelheatingandcooling.ca

Furnaces

Fireplaces

Hot Water Tanks

Chimneys

Ductwork

AND MORE

Bill Sinclair

Darryl Winder

SPRAY FOAM + FIBREGLASS

FIREWOOD

Rhyme from the Wood Man

Before the end of May,

have your wood stacked

& piled away.

So by the Fall, you will have

the best wood of all.

Cut, Hand Split, Delivered.

Call for pricing.

Hand Thrown into truck,

Very Clean, All Hardwood

90% Maple, 10% Cherry,

Oak, Beech - Seasoned & Dry

Call Brian 705-930-7198

LAKESIDE SEPTIC LTD

We offer installation, repair and design of septic systems and holding tanks.

705.333.5988 | lakesideseptichd@gmail.com

MASONRY

ICF Foundations

Engineered Slabs

Concrete Pads

Retaining Walls

Footings

DEAN CORBY

Floyd Hall Limited

SPECIALIZING IN COTTAGES

INCLUDING RENOVATIONS

READ THE HIGHLANDER ANYWHERE

Highlander classifieds

SERVICES

HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

KITCHEN AID STAND MIXER – Is your Kitchen Aid Stand Alone Mixer leaking oil, doesn't run as it should, or making noises? SOUNDS LIKE IT NEEDS SERVICING – I SERVICE AND REPAIR – all work is guaranteed CALL CLIFF 705-887-0770

GENERAL CARPENTRY – 40 years of experience. Small jobs welcome. Free quote. Call Bill at 705-372-3778

PAINTER – Professional, experienced, and dependable painter available for residential and commercial projects — from a single room to an entire home or office. Minor repairs included at no additional charge. Call or text 647-213-2875 for a free estimate or call 705-447-2313

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE – Native pollinator plants for sale. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or email Baz Conlin at haliburtonmm@gmail.com for more info. Pre-sales running until April 20th.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – One bedroom upper level apartment, screened porch, satellite TV, walking distance to downtown, schools & hospital. No pets, non-smoker. $1,500.00 per month includes heat, hydro, a/c and satellite TV. Call 705-455-9878

FOR RENT – Spacious ground floor 1 bedroom apt in town of Haliburton. Has 2 separate entrances, small deck, parking, self contained. $1,600/month plus utilities. Available immediately. Call Charles 416-771-1635

FOR RENT – Basement apartment for rent.1 bdrm, full kitchen including dishwasher, 1 x 3 piece bath. Freshly painted, bright and spacious with personal laundry and infloor heating. NOTE: There are two sets of stairs in the apartment. All inclusive rent of $1800 covers heat/A/C, hydro, septic, water, internet, lawn care and snow removal. Between Haliburton and Gooderham on Glamorgan Rd. Available now. Call/text for more info 705-306-0501

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION – will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

EVENT

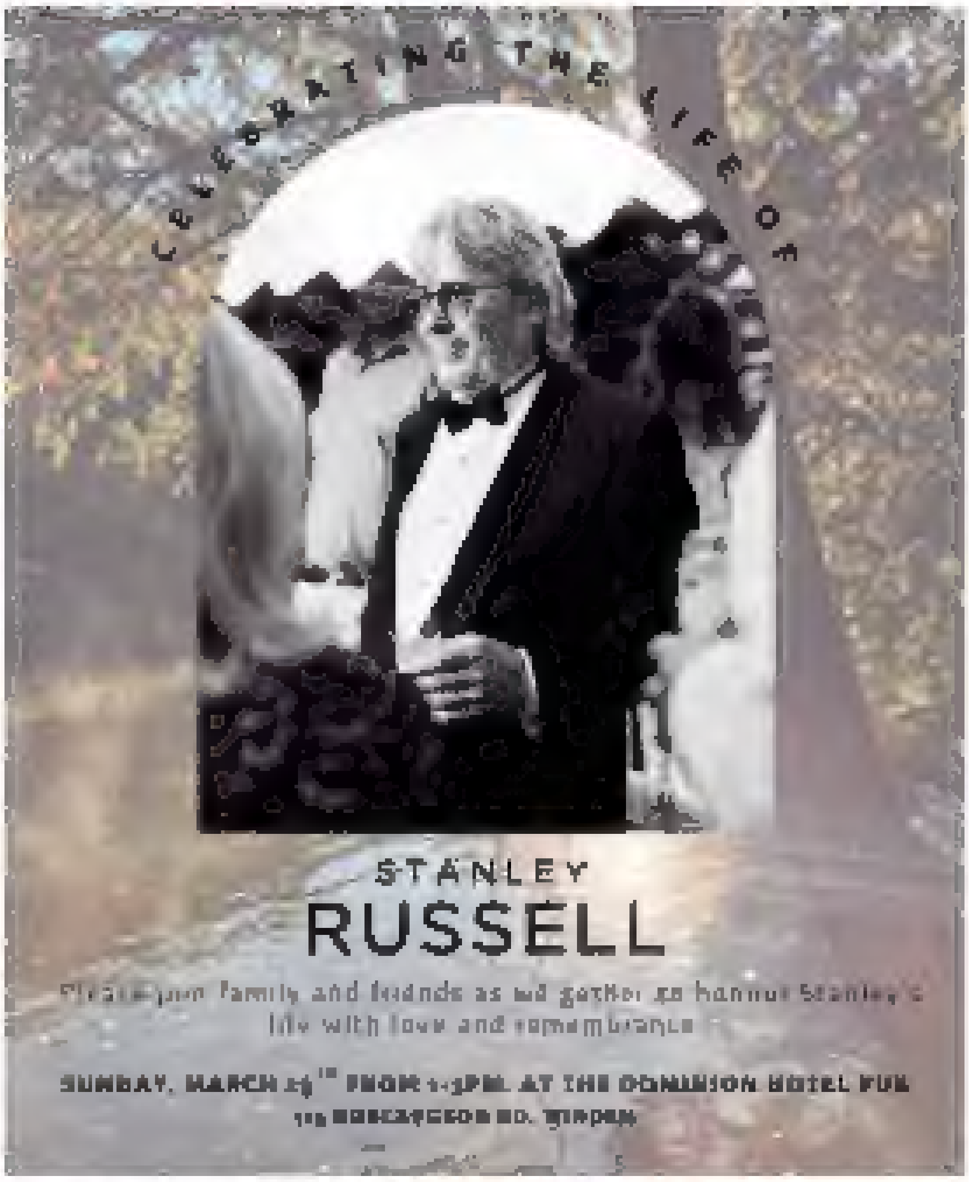
EVENT – STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS from beginner up. Learn the art of Stained Glass in one or two day classes.. Call Tom at 705-286-3021

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS – Sundays – 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays – 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden – rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-800-4AL-ANON (1-800-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

STANLEY

RUSSELL

Please join family and friends as we gather to honour Stanley's life with love and remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH FROM 1-3PM AT THE DOMINION HOTEL PUB

115 BOBCAYGEON RD. MINDEN

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for the following seasonal roles:

One (1) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer

DZ licence and experience with road maintenance and repair required. Hourly rate is $28.43. Unionized CUPE position.

Three (3) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)

G licence and experience in manual labour positions required. Hourly rate is $21.28. Unionized CUPE position.

One (1) Engineering (Seasonal) Student

G licence and current enrolment in an engineering program required. Hourly rate is $20.39. Unionized CUPE position.

One (1) Seasonal Capital Projects Inspector

G licence and at least five (5) years of related municipal experience. Hourly rate is $36.08. Unionized CUPE position.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 27, 2026**

We thank all who apply for the position, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Cybersecurity Analyst

Reporting to the Director of IT, the newly created role of Cybersecurity Analyst provides functional leadership for the County's cybersecurity program and leads day-to-day information security operations. The successful applicant will possess post-secondary education in IT or a related discipline and three (3) years of progressive experience. This position is eligible for remote work.

One (1) Administrative Clerk

Reporting to the Executive Assistant, the Administrative Clerk provides a range of clerical and administrative support such as preparing meeting materials, taking minutes, maintaining filing systems. The successful candidate will possess related administrative experience and demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office 365. The 2026 hourly rate for this unionized CUPE 1060 position is $27.00.

Full-time employment with the County of Haliburton includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and comprehensive, employer paid extended healthcare benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 26, 2026, at 4:30pm.**

We thank all who apply for the position, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

LOCKSMITH

Skycor Locksmithing
info@skycor.ca
705-879-5668
www.skycor.ca
@skycorlocksmithing

WANTED

WANTED ANTIQUES

Furniture, old signs, gold or costume jewellery, wrist and pocket watches, old coins, sterling silver, lamps, china, books, records, military items, paintings, anything old

BOB CARRUTH • 705-887-1672

Highlander classifieds

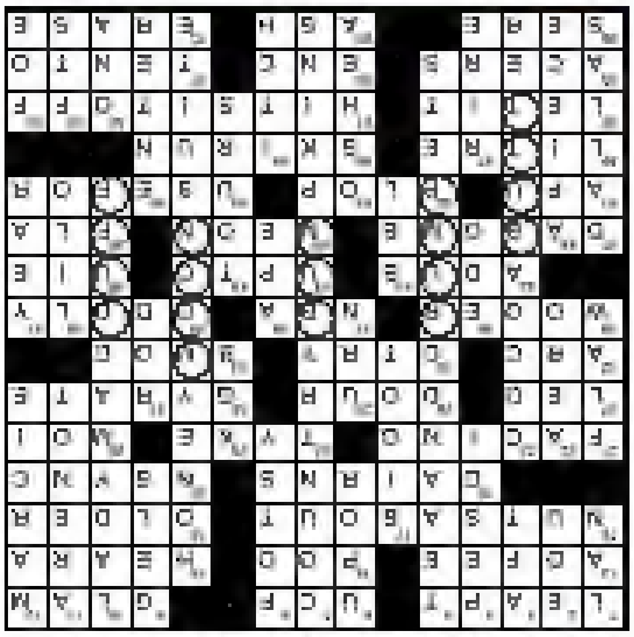
LAWYER

COULSON MILLS, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public
tel: 705 457 2977
fax: 705 457 1462
195 Highland Street,
2nd Floor - Box 648,
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
cmillslawyer@hotmail.com
www.coulsonmills.com

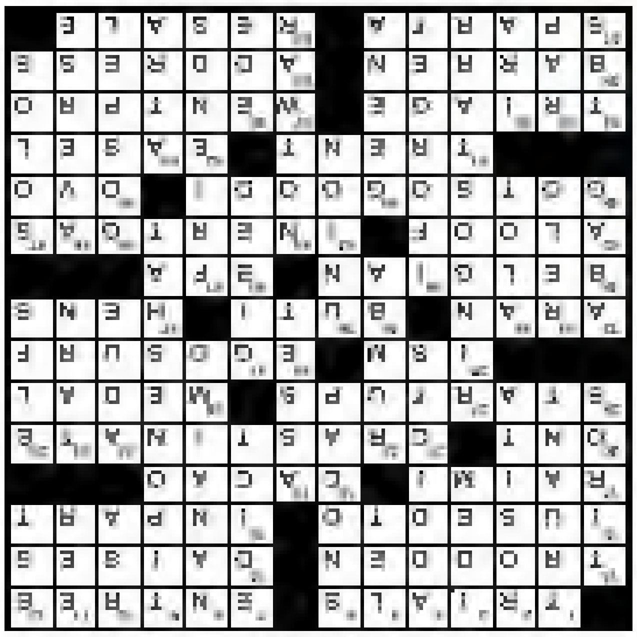
CRIMINAL
CAS MATTERS
LEGAL AID ACCEPTED

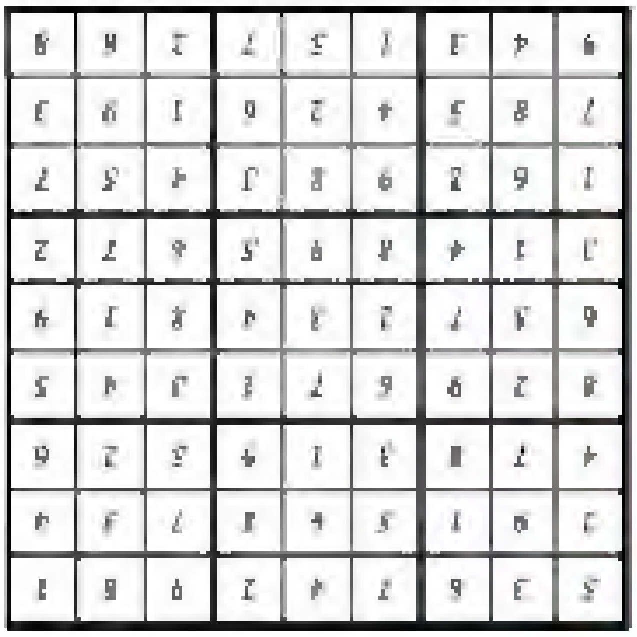
Courts: MINDEN • LINDSAY • PETERBOROUGH • BANCROFT

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Ralph Mitchell

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Celebration of Life

[illegible] **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** [illegible]

In Loving Memory of

Cheryl Miscio

(nee Fearrey)

Resident of Haliburton

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Visitation & Celebration Of Life

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** [illegible]

In Loving Memory of

Doug Allison

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Private Funeral Arrangements

[illegible] **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** [illegible]

In Loving Memory of

James Lee

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

CONTACT US TO BOOK YOUR SPOT TODAY!

TheHighlander
2026 HANDBOOK

SALES
laurie@thehighlander.ca | dawn@thehighlander.ca
705-457-2900 | 705-306-5015

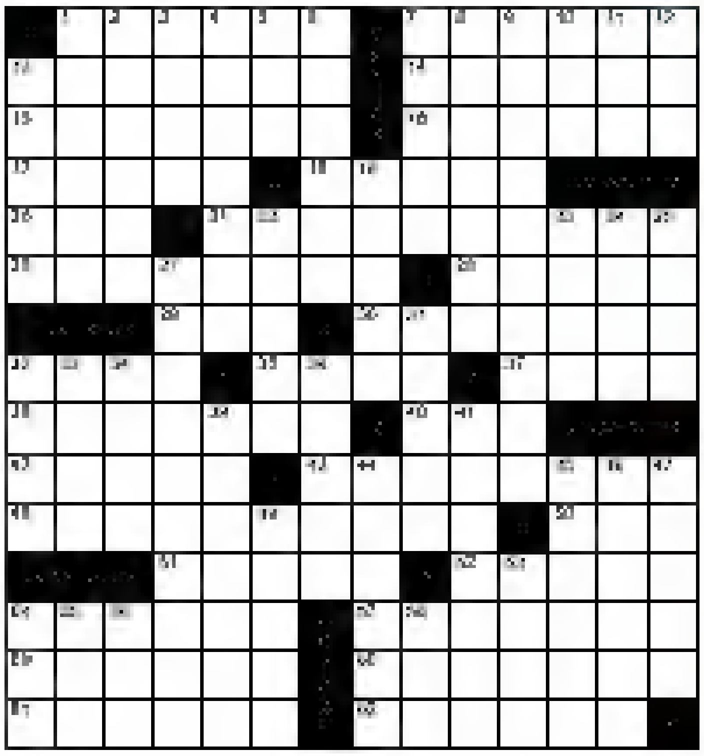
Highlander puzzles

Not Now!

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- **1** Tribulations partner
- **7** Largest dish, usually
- **13** Well-worn, as a path
- **14** Orators' platforms
- **15** PART 1 of a quip relating to the puzzle title
- **16** Not fully
- **17** "A Simple Plan" director Sam
- **18** Chocolate treat
- **20** Peterborough's prov.
- **21** PART 2 of the quip
- **26** Entrepreneur's ventures
- **28** Army uniform dangler
- **29** Suffix meaning "belief"
- **30** Do some self-searching?
- **32** Irish cable-knit sweater
- **35** PART 3 of the quip
- **37** Lady birds
- **38** Like Poirot and some waffles
- **40** Painter's deg.
- **42** Cool, but not groovy
- **43** Unreactive element
- **46** PART 4 of the quip
- **50** ___-lacto-vegetarian
- **51** Peterborough's university
- **52** Atelier tripod
- **54** Medic's priority system
- **57** END of the quip
- **59** Devoid of foliage
- **60** Letter carrier's concern
- **61** Enemy of ancient Athens
- **62** "New-to-you" item



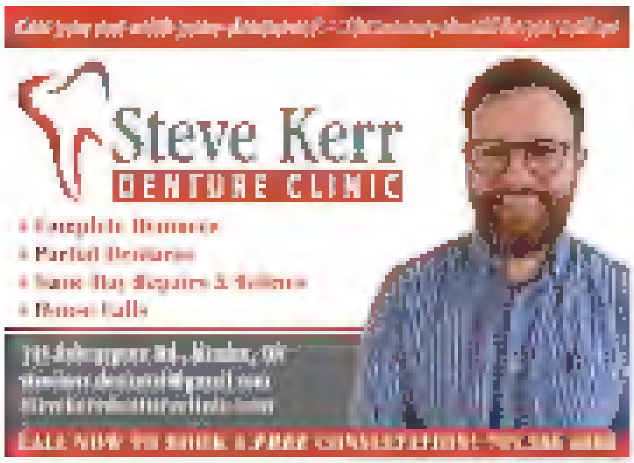
Down

- **1** School skipper
- **2** English/Spanish-speaking Muppet
- **3** "As above," in footnotes
- **4** "-aholic" ones
- **5** Permit
- **6** Concession candy piece
- **7** Formal decree
- **8** ___ bar (treat named for a B.C. city)
- **9** Gesture respectfully, as to a lady
- **10** Mandela's nation: Abbr.
- **11** Always, in poetry
- **12** East of Québec?
- **13** Rookies
- **19** "Urgent" item, perhaps
- **22** Caribbean dance
- **23** As a twosome, musically
- **24** Icy mountain lake
- **25** Seasonal songsters: Var.
- **27** Beatle born Richard Starkey
- **31** Ridiculed
- **32** Dumb as ___ of hammers
- **33** Business news, for short
- **34** "There's not ___ I can do about it"
- **36** It calls the strikes
- **39** "It escapes me at the moment"
- **41** "I'll Be There for You" TV show
- **44** Half of a peace rally slogan
- **45** Much-revered muse
- **46** Drenched (in)
- **47** "American Idol" numbers
- **48** "Thelma & Louise" actress Davis
- **53** Gillette's pivoting razor
- **54** "American Dad!" channel
- **55** Door knock
- **56** Sim Farm's parent org.
- **58** Palindromic Dutch city

Looking for ladies that played softball multiple years from 1960-89!

The Haliburton County Ladies Softball League are being honoured in the Haliburton County Hall of Fame!

Please contact me if you played and can attend. **Induction is 2pm, May 23rd.**
Also looking for action shots, please send to: **cheryl_gregk@hotmail.com**



[illegible]

Steve Kerr
DENTURE CLINIC

- Complete Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- House Calls

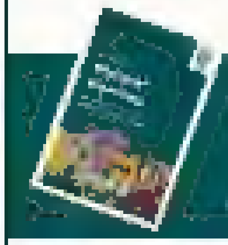
[illegible]

CALL NOW TO BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION: [illegible]

Highlander sudoku
is sponsored by

grounded
GARDENING FOR LIFE

Natural gardens
and shorelines
designed and installed



For a free guide to
natural gardens in
Haliburton County,
visit groundedgardens.ca.

		6	7	4		9		
			5				2	
	7							6
		9		7				5
					4		1	9
						6		2
	6	2		8	3	4		
7					6			
	4	3	1					

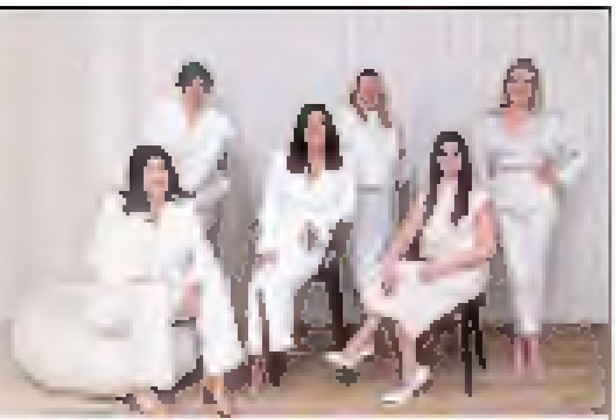
© 2026 The Highlander Newspaper Limited. The contents of The Highlander newspaper (including Highlander.ca and related publications) are intended for individual, personal, non-commercial use. All materials published in any medium, including but not limited to text, photographs, images, designs, advertisements, audio clips, video clips, metadata, data or compilations, collectively referred to as 'content', are protected by copyright and owned by The Highlander Newspaper Limited or the party credited. The Highlander Newspaper Limited also owns copyright in the selection, arrangement, enhancement, design and layout of said content. Reproduction and commercialization, including but not limited to the scraping fully or partially of any content for the purposes of training AI systems or any software program, model, algorithm or other generative AI tool, or use of any full or partial form of content in or to train any information retrieval or content information system, are strictly prohibited without prior written consent from The Highlander Newspaper Limited.

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

A team that

KNOWS HOME

Finding your happy place starts with knowing where to look. Browse our latest properties and work with a team that understands the Haliburton market inside and out.



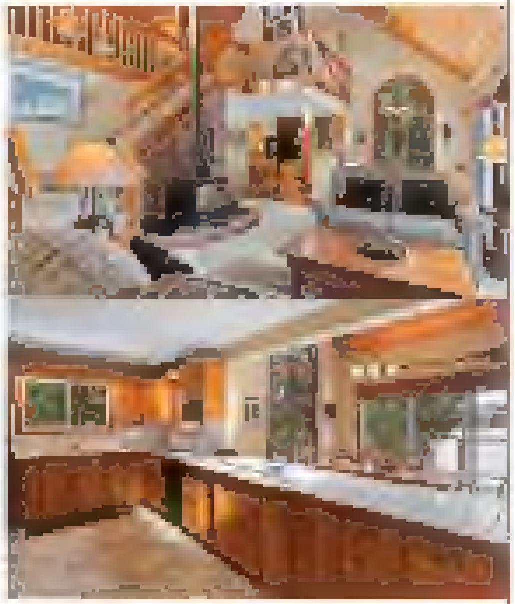
Sold

2+1

2

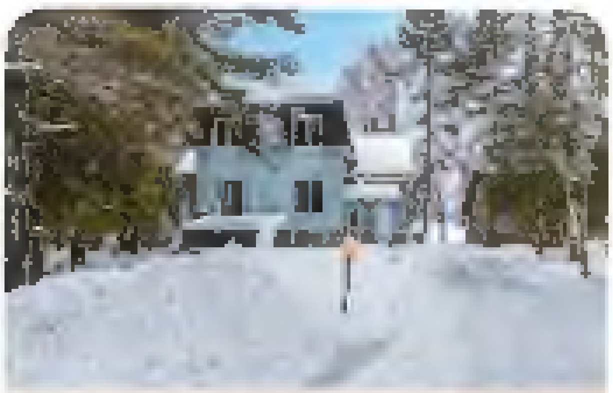
1.06 ACRES

MLS# X12816850



Basshaunt Lake $920,000

This property is now SOLD! Whether you're seeking a serene escape, an active outdoor lifestyle, or quality time with family and friends, this exceptional property blends privacy, recreation, and the quiet beauty of nature into the perfect year-round retreat. Discover this stunning waterfront home overlooking the lake, set on a generous private lot. Scenic walking trails begin right at your doorstep, with easy four-season access, near Sir Sam's Ski / Ride.



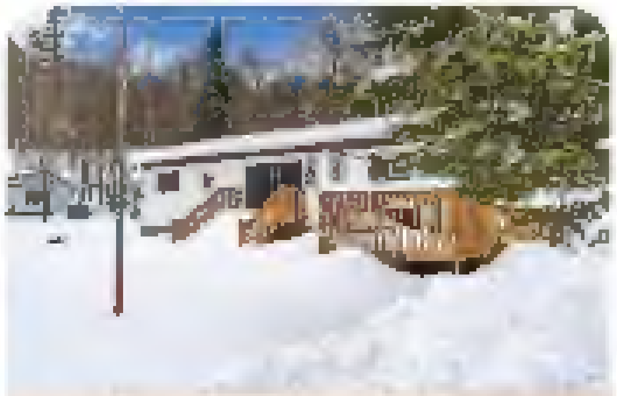
Little Boshkung

$675,000

2

4

MLS#X12694894



Highway 35

$499,900

2

4

MLS X12604142

Gelert Road

$315,000

1

2

MLS X12267121

EVERY SALE HAS A STORY

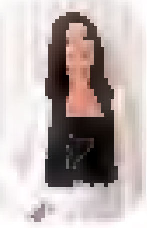
"We recently sold our cottage and had an outstanding experience with Baumgartner Realty Group. Their **professionalism, clear communication**, recommendations, follow up and market expertise made the entire process smooth and stress-free. From listing to pre-closing, every detail was handled with **care and efficiency**. We couldn't be more pleased with the results and highly recommend the Baumgartner Realty Group to anyone looking to buy or sell property."

-G Simpson, Google Review

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
BAUMGARTNER REALTY

PO Box 1086 - 7 Dysart Ave, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract.



Linda Baumgartner
Broker of Record
(705) 457-3461
contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca

baumgartnerrealty.ca

SCAN TO VIEW LISTINGS